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Equivalents

Those skilled in the art will know, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the invention described herein. These and all other
5 equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the following claims:

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1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:1).

2. An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3 having a glutamic acid to lysine change at amino acid 74.

3. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a loss-of-function mutant of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the mutation in the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of:

- 10 a) n3400;
 b) n3407; and
 c) n3377, and wherein said mutation is a ced-9 loss-of-function mutation.

4. The nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein said nucleic acid is from a nematode.

5. A vector, wherein said vector comprises the nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3.

15 6. The vector of claim 5, wherein said vector is within a cell.

7. The vector of claim 6, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

8. The vector of claim 6, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.